(a) the sanctioned fund for EAS and JRY schemes in each of North Eastern States for the financial year 1995-96, scheme-wise;

(b) the amount released upto 31st January, 1997 for these two projects in the States of this region;

(c) the total amount required for giving work to the labour card holders for 100 days (State-wise); and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to meet up the requirements of the North-Eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Central funds released under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) to each of North Eastern States during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto 31st January, 1997) are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Under EAS guidelines, all those persons who need and seek employment have to get themselves registered with the village panchayat and are issued family cards. Employment is provided to the family card holders whenever they need and seek work. For seeking employment under EAS the needy persons are required to apply in writing to the local panchayat and whenever atleast 20 persons demand work during the lean season, they are to be provided un-skilled manual employment on any on going department/EAS work or by opening up new works in the area. The total amount required for giving work to the family card holders can not be worked out as employment is provided to only those persons who seek work under the EAS. However, all the blocks in the North Eastern States have been covered under EAS from 1996-97, which is a demand driven scheme. A district can request for the next subsequent instalments of the funds for those blocks which have utilised 50% or more of the available funds.

Compressed Natural Gas

1884. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a very poor response from vehicle owners on the usage Compressed Natural Gas in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to promote usage of CNG ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The response from private vehicle owners on usage of CNG in Delhi has been poor, partly on account of high cost of CNG conversion kit and partly because of certain technical and operational problems. However, about 800 Govt. cars have been converted for CNG use and response in certain areas is good.

(c) Govt. have taken steps to reduce custom duty one CNG kits and planned to set up more on-line CNG dispensing facilities along the gas pipeline in Delhi.

[Translation]

Petroleum Projects

1885. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to recent survey conducted by the Government 80 percent of petroleum and its by-products are consumed public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these products are supplied at cheaper rates than supplied to the public; and

(d) if so, the reasons and rationale thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Government have not conducted any such survey.

(c) and (d) The ex-storage point prices (exclusive of excise duty) of administered petroleum products are uniform at all pricing points in the country, for all consumers.

[English]

Generation of Power

1886. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the cummulative losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards during the last three years, SEBs-wise and Year-wise;

(b) the target of generation of power at the end of Seventh and Eighth Year Plan respectively together with actual achievement;

(c) the actual flow of private investment in the power sector in the last three years;

(d) the steps taken to meet the current and anticipated demand of power upto 2000 A.D.,

(e) whether the Government have advised SEBs to privatise its various functions of production and distribution of power; and